MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Central Assistance to Set up new Industrial Projects in Orissa

*64. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Central assistance given to industrial projects set up in orissa during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more such projects in the State during the year 1989-90; and

(c) if so, by when these projects are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No new Central Public Sector enterprise has been set up in Orissa during the last three years. However, the total investment in terms of Gross Block in the existing enterprises in Orissa has increased by Rs. 2109.48 crores during this period.

(b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal to set up more Public Sector Units in Orissa during 1989-90.

(c) Does not arise.

Lack of Fire Protection System at the Bombay High Off-Shore Drilling Platforms

*65 SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a Safety Audit Report of the Safety Equipment Maintenance Division of ONGC, stating that several drilling platforms are yet to have their fire protection system commissioned the water pumps of many are under repairs and out of commission, life-boats are awaiting repairs for damage without the necessary stand by life-boats;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Officer incharge of the Bombay High Region on August 12, last year asked the Group General Manager for immediate corrective action for the safety of off-shore installations and particularly of the production platforms; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the action taken by the ONGC in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) ONGC has a Safety & Environment Management Division (SEM) in each of its regions. In July, 1988 the SEM Division of the Bombay Regional Business Centre (BRBC) carried out a safety audit of off-shore platforms and rigs and found certain shortcomings like—

(i) non-completion of fire water pumps, mainly on unmanned well platforms;

(ii) defective safety systems in some wells; and

(iii) need for repairs of some life boats.

Following the audit, corrective action was taken by the BRBC. As a result defective pumps and life boats, and safety systems have been checked and, their number reduced. In order to monitor safety measures, a four-tier safety check and inspection of platforms and rigs by senior officers has been instituted and measures to increase safety awareness among employees have been initiated. In addition, ONGC have plans to set up an Institute of Petroleum Safety & Environment Management at Goa to train personnel in safety measures.